

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 700
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA
AND MR. WEXLER OF FLORIDA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas ministers representing Member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have expressed their dedication to further transformation of the NATO alliance in order to enhance its ability to address new threats and challenges in a global security environment;

Whereas NATO's North Atlantic Council initiated the Mediterranean Dialogue in 1994 as a means to contribute to security and stability of the Mediterranean region;

Whereas NATO's Prague Summit in 2002 and NATO's Istanbul Summit of 2004 continued to expand and deepen the framework of the Mediterranean Dialogue, and initiated the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative to further contribute to security and stability in the broader Middle East;

Whereas NATO is preparing to further transform and enhance the Alliance's global partnerships and relationships as part of its agenda for NATO's Riga Summit in November 2006;

Whereas Israel supports principles which are in keeping with the objectives of the Washington Treaty;

Whereas Israel's advanced military and intelligence capabilities, and expertise in dealing with new security realities



and threats, would contribute to NATO's ability to confront the challenges of the new global security environment;

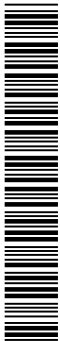
Whereas Israel is a member of the NATO Mediterranean Dialogue, which has served as a forum for consultation and practical cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean area for the past ten years;

Whereas Israel has presented NATO with a plan to enhance its bilateral cooperation entitled the "Individual Cooperation Program: Strategic Cooperative Framework Between the State of Israel and NATO for 2006-2007" detailing a wide range of vehicles for enhanced cooperation between Israel and NATO, including Israel's willingness to provide NATO with assets to support NATO search and rescue operations, in addition to disaster relief;

Whereas NATO, as part of its enhanced Mediterranean Dialogue outreach, has also deepened its relationship with Israel, including through the visit of NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer to Israel in February 2005, marking the first such visit to Israel by a NATO Secretary General;

Whereas in February 2006, a delegation of multinational military officers led by NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force General Axel Tuttelman brought an AWACS early warning surveillance plane to Israel, in hopes of further enhancing security cooperation between NATO and Israel in the war on global terrorism;

Whereas NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer stated that Israel 'had shown a keen interest' in joining NATO naval patrols in efforts to prevent terrorist smug-



gling of materials through the Mediterranean into Europe;

Whereas Israel has participated in NATO-sponsored military exercises and has explored the possibility of increasing joint counter-proliferation efforts and intelligence sharing;

Whereas Israel is developing the technology to make its military assets interoperable with those of NATO forces;

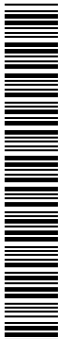
Whereas Israel will place a liaison officer at NATO's naval headquarters in Naples, Italy;

Whereas, through its submission of its Individual Cooperation Program, Israel continues to demonstrate its commitment to work with NATO to enhance its policies and programs regarding military capabilities, military doctrine and exercises, border security, arms control, terrorist prevention, humanitarian efforts, public diplomacy, and technological advancement;

Whereas Israel possesses a functioning democratic form of government, market-based economy, and respect for the political rights and liberties of minority groups, has demonstrated a strong commitment to peacefully settle disputes and the ability and willingness to contribute militarily to the alliance, and has in place a democratic civil military structure;

Whereas Israel has been a staunch ally in the global effort to eradicate terror and a strong defender of democracy, freedom, and human rights; and

Whereas Israel is a valuable strategic ally of the United States and other NATO Member States: Now, therefore, be it



Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That it is the sense of the House of Representatives
2 that—

3 (1) the transformation of the North Atlantic
4 Treaty Organization's non-member partnership rela-
5 tionships is necessary to address the threats and
6 challenges the Alliance faces in the new global secu-
7 rity environment;

8 (2) Israel's demonstrated commitment to up-
9 hold democracy and to combat terrorism, in addition
10 to its strong strategic and military capabilities,
11 makes Israel an invaluable NATO partner;

12 (3) as Israel pursues an expanded relationship
13 with NATO, the United States, as Israel's strong
14 ally should take the lead in advocating for such an
15 enhanced relationship between Israel and the Alli-
16 ance; and

17 (4) Israel's deepened relationship with NATO
18 would be mutually beneficial to both Israel and
19 NATO Member States, including the United States.

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution sup-
porting an enhanced relationship between Israel and
NATO.".

